Helpful guidance for UCAS applications 21/22

We are aware that with disruption to learning last year and the alternative assessment arrangements that were in place for the summer, you may have questions about how your UCAS application this year will be affected. This document will answer your questions and offer some guidance for completing your UCAS application.

What is different this year?

In previous years your school or college would have been able to provide your year 1 confirmed unit grades for you to add to your UCAS application form. Unfortunately, the alternative awarding arrangements in place last academic year have meant that these grades weren’t able to be confirmed before the UCAS application window opened.

We have kept in touch with your school/college to let them know this, and to inform them that it’s not vital for you to include year 1 unit grades on the application form. This is because we will send this information to UCAS in the summer, and also because universities recognise that not all schools and colleges deliver the key units in year 1. However, you should indicate on your UCAS application form all of the units you are taking as some universities will want to check that you are studying appropriate content to prepare for their degree programme.

How do I ensure that everything else needed is on my UCAS form?

We understand that the UCAS Apply form can be confusing to complete for BTEC learners. Please watch our ‘Guidance for BTEC Students on completing their UCAS Apply form’ video which takes you through each step of completing the UCAS form so that you don’t make mistakes.

Top tips

Double check the entry requirements of the universities that you wish to apply to. Some courses require an A level as well as a BTEC and some require you to have taken certain BTEC units. If the entry requirements are not clear on the website, contact the university to get full details of what they would want from you.

Please ensure you use the same name on your UCAS application form as on your BTEC registration (i.e. your legal name). This enables us to successfully identify you and send your results to UCAS on time.

Make sure that you put the correct title for the qualification on your application form. There are many different BTEC subjects, each with several different sizes. If you put down the wrong title, it may mean that you don’t get an offer or receive an offer you can’t meet.

Please list which unit titles you are studying as part of the BTEC. This is really important for STEM and health-related degrees, where unit-based offers can often be made. Some universities will reject applications outright if unit titles are not listed on the UCAS application form.

You can get additional help with your application form from The Complete University Guide which gives detailed guidance on the whole process or The Which University Guide which has helpful information and advice for BTEC learners.